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Extension Service - United States Department of Agriculture

W A R T I M E E X T E N S I O N W O R K

SUMMARY OF EXTENSION WORK, TECHNIQUES, AND RESULTS BASED ON STATE REPORTS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF EXTENSION SERVICE
RECORD
FEB - 8 1943

State reports this week throw the spotlight on Victory Gardens; farm machinery repair; farm mobilization; and other Extension wartime jobs.

CONNECTICUT February 5, 1943

Farm mobilization.- Farm visits by community committeemen begun, following series of extension county schools to instruct committeemen in procedures. Information gathered goes to County USDA War Boards to be channeled to agencies concerned. Requests for farm labor will go to USES; statements of farm machinery needs to farm machinery rationing committees; requests for credit information to the production credit association.

Victory Gardens.- State Defense Council organizing committees in urban areas as part of State war garden plan. Excellent public response. Several cities appointed garden supervisors to handle season's program. Requests for home gardening information reaching Extension in large numbers. Information plans now in operation include; War garden bulletin; garden reminders in Jobs of the Month circular; gardengraphs; Radio Garden Quiz, 5 minutes weekly, answers to questions on gardening; war garden newspaper releases.

Food preservation.- State Defense Council organizing conservation program; Extension provides technical information and demonstrations. In extension canning program, home demonstration agents selecting town canning leaders and neighborhood canning leaders for year. Neighborhood leader system will be used to promote both garden and canning programs.

Maple sugar.- Extension forester encouraging those who have maples to tap trees, using home-made equipment, and make supply of sirup for home use.

Dairy and poultry.- Follow-up folders prepared for dairy and poultry, giving detailed recommendations for farm adjustments to achieve greater production with present manpower and equipment.

Selective Service.- Extension represented at series educational meetings conducted by Selective Service to inform board chairmen of new policy on deferment of farm workers.

Summary No. 43
February 20, 1943

Income tax.- Extension economist giving intensive training on farm income tax procedure at county schools. Names of those trained being published so that farmers who need assistance can seek their help.

4-H mobilization.- Mobilization for 1943 4-H Club Victory program begun in all counties. All efforts to be directed toward increasing 4-H enrollment. Seven radio stations broadcasting 4-H transcription, "The Plow and the Sword"; two stations using live talent programs.

MINNESOTA

February 1, 1943

Victory Gardens.- Campaign launched January 26 at State garden conference sponsored by Extension. All USDA agencies, OCD, schools, and other interested groups took part. Extension to furnish training and material for school, OCD, and rural programs; extension director is member of State coordinating committee. State conference recommended similar coordinating and planning conferences for each county. Survey of Minnesota farm gardens, as basis for rural garden program, showed 98.5 percent of farm families had gardens in 1942. Aim in 1943 is to improve these, get better utilization.

Neighborhood leaders.- At suggestion of OCD, neighborhood leaders become official OCD representatives in farm communities. In Minnesota OCD had block workers in country antedating neighborhood leader system. These now merged with neighborhood leader group. Agreement signed by extension director and OCD chief puts extension people on State and county OCD councils. Course in neighborhood leadership presented at Farm and Home Week, January 18-24.

Machinery conservation.- Extension and machinery trades people cooperating in trade center machinery conservation schools in 48 counties. General coverage on machinery conservation and neighborhood cooperation in use of machines to be obtained through neighborhood leaders. Letter to 26,400 leaders outlines needs and provides check list.

Labor-saving equipment.- State being covered by trade center and neighborhood demonstrations on labor-saving items built from wood. Lumber dealers enlisted in demonstrations. They build self-feeders and other equipment according to Extension-recommended plan as displays for meetings. Farmers invited in to study labor-saving devices. As a result they may buy ready-made equipment, ready-sawed lumber, or build entire appliances themselves. 20,000 sets of plans of farm devices printed for distribution by lumber yards, county agents. Estimated total number of items built of wood as result of State-wide program will run into tens of thousands.

Food for Freedom.- Record distribution of food production literature. Three quiz sheets -- dairy, poultry, hog -- prepared for stimulating interest in better practices. At request of feed dealers and large millers, Extension prepared two-color pamphlets, "More Pork" and "Save 3 Million Chicks," aimed at better practices to prevent losses. Mixers, dealers, bankers, buying 500,000 each of these for distribution, also 10,000 each of hog and chick posters. All issued as extension literature without commercial imprint.

Hemp production.- Agents in hemp area holding educational meetings. Specialist assigned to hemp work. Extension Pamphlet 117, Wartime Hemp Production in Minnesota, published.

MISSISSIPPI
January 1, 1943

Salvage.- Since last report, 12,733,971 pounds iron, 133,060 pounds rubber, 2 carloads tin cans, 1,789,520 pounds miscellaneous scrap have been collected.

War bonds and stamps.- Since last report, \$2,673,235.60 worth of bonds and stamps have been sold or pledged by county agents.

Share the meat.- During November and December county agents held 471 training meetings on share-the-meat program, 393 by white, and 78 by negro agents. Leaders attending: white, 7,778; negro, 2,404; total, 10,182. Leaders reached 44,092 families in 41 counties.

Victory Gardens.- Organization in every county in State signing up farm and town people for year-round gardens. Program channeled through neighborhood leaders in country and block leaders in cities and towns.

Food production goals.- During December county agents in 44 counties held 399 meetings (242 for white people, and 157 for negroes), explaining food production goals for 1943 and need for greater production. Attendance: 11,822. Additional families reached by neighborhood leaders: 13,012.

Livestock disease control.- 21 counties conducted livestock disease control campaigns. Negro agents alone in 16 counties treated 4,221 head of livestock.

Meat production.- Indications are that Mississippi will exceed its meat production goals in both hogs and poultry. Light increase over 1942 expected in beef production.

Dairy.- To offset decreased dairy production in some of larger herds, due to shortage of essential labor, special effort is being made to increase number of cows in family-sized herds.

Food, nutrition, and health.- Through home demonstration agents (13 white and 18 negro) in 31 counties, 343 meetings held, with attendance of 3,568 whites and 4,182 negroes, to plan nutrition programs for 1943.

Pasture improvement.- To increase both beef and dairy production farmers are taking advantage of AAA payments for seeding and fertilizing pastures. Extent of pasture improvement probably will depend upon available supply of desired seeds and fertilizer.

Fire prevention and control.- Following State-wide fire-prevention campaign carried out in October, survey shows following results in 56 counties: 77,486 fire hazard check sheets distributed by 4-H Club boys; pledge cards to keep fire from their own and neighboring property signed by 14,476 farmers; 663 community 4-H fire patrols organized; 2,033 fire posters put up; marked decrease in number of fires compared with same months of last year.

Farm machinery.-- Shortage of new farm implements and machinery makes it necessary to emphasize repair of farm machinery throughout State. Practically every county has carried out farm machinery repair programs. Cooperating were farm machinery dealers, repair shops, and vocational school teachers. In Wilkinson County alone, machinery was repaired for 1,160 families.

MONTANA

February 1, 1943

Production goals.-- Five of State staff teamed with representatives of other USDA agencies in conducting meetings in every agricultural county to initiate 1943 food production program. Thorough preparation made for meetings by committee of State USDA War Board. Indicated that most production goals can be reached.

Farm labor.-- Program of labor training for youth and adults, developed by Extension, adopted by State labor committee. Will cooperate with Vocational Agriculture in carrying out program. General coordinating bodies are State labor committee and county labor committees. County committees composed representatives USDA War Board agencies, USES, Department Interior, Vocational Education, school authorities, representative producers. Labor and training needs to be determined by intensive labor survey. Program provides for training of persons of 17 years or over in skills essential to performing farm jobs; provides for placing such persons, and some supervision after placement.

Farm machinery.-- Special forms prepared for agents emphasizing machine repair. Check list cards distributed to farm families with advice on keeping farm machinery in condition, and space for checking needed repairs and parts.

SOUTH DAKOTA

February 1, 1943

Farm mobilization.-- State training school for 32 USDA representatives was first step in farm mobilization program. Each representative assisted in initiating program in one or two counties. Representatives reported to counties January 4 and assisted with mobilization day as well as with community war board meetings. State mobilization day meeting attended by 137 State leaders in business and agriculture. Community meetings followed county mobilization day immediately in most counties. Reports indicate more farm people attended these meetings than any series of meetings in years.

Victory Gardens.-- State-wide Victory Garden campaign planned. Neighborhood Leaders will be supplied with enrollment cards, circular on food supply, and window stickers for families participating. Will endeavor to reach every farm family. Follow-up material for families enrolling being prepared. Similar program will be used for block leaders in many towns.

Farm machinery.-- Twenty county farm machinery care and repair meetings scheduled for February. Emphasis given to proper care, fuels and oils used, ignition, and similar problems.

Foods and nutrition.-- Victory food and preservation plans for 1943 presented to all county and home agents at series district conferences. Among subjects discussed: Enrollment in Home Food Supply program, and planning menus adequate in Vitamin C, using South Dakota produced foods. Demonstrations throughout State on alternate foods to relieve meat shortage. Material on point rationing, developed at meeting of Food Requirements Committee, presented to all agents to carry to people of counties.

District conferences.-- Conferences for training agents in subject matter held in each supervision district. Subjects: Home food production with special emphasis on State-wide garden program; chick feeding and management; seed testing and treatment; farm records and income tax; nutrition.

4-H Clubs.-- Special emphasis given to contribution of 4-H Club members to war program during 4-H Mobilization Week. Leader-training meetings to be conducted in every county in February to consider increased enrollment and plan year's program.

TEXAS

February 1, 1943

Farm mobilization.-- Comprehensive series subdistrict meetings planned to promote more effectively food, feed, and fiber production, youth mobilization, and other essential wartime programs. Plan will bring together progressively groups of extension specialists and county agents for technical discussion and demonstrations. Meetings held on successive days until agents in district contacted and problems discussed. Specialist group then moves to another district while another group comes for second series of conferences. Every county agent will receive benefit of counsel of entire subject-matter staff over period of months.

Farm engineering.-- Running terrace lines major activity with county agents. Two schools on care and repair of dairy equipment attended by 300 dairymen. Large demand for plans for poultry, hog, and cattle equipment. Various types cotton strippers being made by farmers.

Meat.-- Meat demonstrations 12 counties show interest in curing beef by smoking with green apple wood in "smoker" barrel. 20 training schools held for 121 home demonstration agents and 93 county agents in killing, cutting, preservation of meats. After cutting, home demonstration agents with help of farm women, canned the beef. As direct result, 52 counties report similar demonstrations.

Agronomy.-- Hybrid corn, peanuts, and restricted fertilizer use under wartime conditions discussed at meetings with agents. Emphasis placed on planting ample feed crops, use of good seed, and seed treatment.

Rodent control.-- Rat control campaigns 33 counties, especially in defense areas. Increase reported in disease associated with rat infestation. Prairie-dog control conducted over areas poisoned previously in effort to clean up stragglers. Pocket gopher control projects organized in east Texas to protect young growth peanuts and other crops.

Home improvement.- Salvaging and restoring discarded furniture in rural homes as wartime economy reported 32 counties. Women show ingenuity in adapting available materials for improving home furnishings.

Family life.- 42 adult groups and 1,200 4-H Club members in 32 counties met to discuss some phase of the challenge of war to the family. Objective: Morale building, with emphasis on cooperation and unity in family, neighborhood, and community as key to success of 1943 production campaign. Meetings held with neighborhood groups to demonstrate home play equipment. Directions for making equipment given each family. Similar meetings planned for other neighborhoods.

Farm unit demonstrations.- Urgent need for larger food and feed production with limited labor and equipment has led to featuring farm unit demonstrations as community centers of extension work in farm management and home management. Home demonstration agents working with county agents in plans and calculations.

Negro activities.- Rural Negro families in 53 counties, under Negro agents, are coordinating activities to increase food and feed production, share meat, collect scrap, buy war bonds and stamps, carry on civilian defense, distribute essential information, and strengthen morale.

Reports show 1,478 farm leaders trained to assist farmers in putting up home-cured meat and meat products; 29 counties had 197 pork killing and curing demonstrations involving 656 hogs; 3,420 Negro farmers in 45 counties sold 16,000 hogs; 14,500 farmers in 48 counties cured 1,500,000 pounds meat; 25,000 farm families in 52 counties increased size of gardens; 19,000 farmers in 50 counties stepped up egg production by 163,000 dozen by adding 317,000 birds to flocks.

Negro 4-H Club members have bought \$136,000 war bonds and stamps. 33,000 families participating in defense activities promoted by Extension. 835 pupils of Negro schools in Anderson County took part in essay contest sponsored by Chamber of Commerce to encourage organization of forest fire fighting group. War stamps valued at \$60 offered as prizes.